IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1.- 81. (canceled)

82. (new) A method for providing multiple access to a communication channel, the method comprising:

forming an uplink channel comprising a plurality of frames, each frame comprising a first selectable number of minislots and a second selectable number of slots;

receiving a reservation request of a first type contained in a first selected minislot of a selected frame of the uplink channel when information of a first type is ready to be sent, the reservation request of the first type requesting an assignment of at least one slot for transmitting information of the first type in at least one frame that is subsequent to the selected frame;

assigning at least one first slot in response to the received reservation request of the first type;

receiving a reservation request of a second type contained in a second selected minislot of the selected frame when the second selected minislot is available in the selected frame and when information of a second type is ready to be sent, the reservation request of the second type requesting an assignment of at least one slot for transmitting information of the second type in at least one frame that is subsequent to the selected frame, the reservation request of the second type contending for the second selected minislot based on a contention algorithm; and

broadcasting a feedback message in a downlink channel before an end of the selected frame, the feedback message containing minislot assignment information for sending reservation requests of the first and the second type, slot assignment information for transmitting information of the first and the second type, minislot contention information for

the reservation requests of the second type received in the selected frame, and allocation time information for the reservation requests of the second type to be initiated in a frame after the selected frame on behalf of the information of the second type.

83. (new) The method according to claim 82, wherein the feedback message comprises slot assignment information for at least one frame following the selected frame.

84. (new) The method according to claim 82, wherein the minislot contention information comprises information relating to successful receipt of the reservation requests of the second type.

85. (new) The method according to claim 82, wherein the minislot contention information comprises information relating to a collision of the reservation requests of the second type.

86. (new) The method according to claim 82, wherein the information of the first type is a talkspurt of a voice message.

87. (new) The method according to claim 82, wherein the information of the second type is a data message.

88. (new) The method according to claim 82, further comprising receiving information of the first type in the uplink channel in a slot in a frame that is subsequent to the selected frame that was assigned in response to the reservation request of the first type.

89. (new) The method according to claim 82, wherein the first selectable number of minislots and the second selectable number of slots are predetermined.

90. (new) The method according to claim 82, wherein the first selectable number of minislots and the second selectable number of slots are adjustable.

91. (new) The method according to claim 82, wherein the uplink and downlink channels are part of a time division multiple access communication system.

92. (new) The method according to claim 82, wherein the uplink and downlink channels are part of a frequency division multiple access communication system.

93. (new) The method according to claim 82, wherein the uplink and downlink channels are part of a code division multiple access communication system.

94. (new) The method according to claim 82, wherein the at least one slot assigned for transmitting information of the first type is assigned based on a contention-free reservation mechanism.

95. (new) A method for providing multiple access to a communication channel, the method comprising the steps of:

sending a reservation request of a first type into a first selected minislot of a selected frame of an uplink channel when information of a first type is to be sent, the uplink channel having a plurality of frames, each frame having a first selectable number of minislots and a second selectable number of slots, the reservation request of the first type requesting an assignment of at least one slot for transmitting information of the first type in at least one frame that is subsequent to the selected frame;

sending a reservation request of a second type into a second selected minislot of the

selected frame when the second selected minislot is available in the selected frame and when information of a second type is to be sent, the reservation request of the second type requesting an assignment of at least one slot for transmitting information of the second type in at least one frame that is subsequent to the selected frame, the reservation request of the second type contending for the second selected minislot based on a contention algorithm; and

receiving a feedback message from a downlink channel, the feedback message containing minislot assignment information for sending reservation requests of the first and the second type, slot assignment information for transmitting information of the first and the second type, minislot contention information for the reservation requests of the second type sent in the selected frame, and allocation time information for the reservation requests of the second type to be initiated in a frame after the selected frame on behalf of the information of the second type, the feedback message being received prior to an end of the selected frame of the uplink channel.

96. (new) The method according to claim 95, wherein the reservation requests of the second type are sent into the second selected minislots, each second selected minislot being selected by a central station for a contention subgroup of terminals identified by a level in a virtual stack from a plurality of minislots available for sending the reservation requests of the second type that have experienced a collision not yet resolved.

97. (new) The method according to claim 95, wherein the reservation requests of the second type are sent into the second selected minislots, each second selected minislot being selected independently and at random with equal probability from a plurality of minislots available for sending new reservation requests of the second type on behalf of the information of the second type arriving between an old allocation time and a new allocation time.

98. (new) The method according to claim 95, wherein the feedback message comprises slot

assignment information for at least one frame following the selected frame.

99. (new) The method according to claim 95, wherein the feedback message comprises information relating to a number of mini slots available in a frame after the selected frame for sending reservation request of the second type, and information relating to a new allocation time for reservation requests of the second type to be initiated in a frame after the selected frame on behalf of information of the second type.

100. (new) The method according to claim 95, wherein the minislot contention information comprises information relating to a successful sending of the reservation requests of the second type.

101. (new) The method according to claim 95, wherein the minislot contention information comprises information relating to a collision of the reservation requests of the second type.

102. (new) The method according to claim 95, further comprising a step of adjusting a virtual stack level value identifying a contention subgroup of terminals sending the reservation request of the second type based on the minislot contention information.

103. (new) The method according to claim 95, wherein the information of the first type is a talkspurt of a voice message.

104. (new) The method according to claim 95, wherein the information of the second type is a data message.

105. (new) The method according to claim 95, wherein the information of the first type is

transmitted in the uplink channel in a slot in a frame that is subsequent to the selected frame that is assigned in response to the reservation request of the first type.

106. (new) The method according to claim 95, wherein the first selectable number of minislots and the second selectable number of slots are each predetermined.

107. (new) The method according to claim 95, wherein the first selectable number of minislots and second selectable number of slots are each adjustable.

108. (new) The method according to claim 95, wherein the uplink and downlink channels are part of a time division multiple access communication system.

109. (new) The method according to claim 95, wherein the uplink and downlink channels are part of a frequency division multiple access communication system.

110. (new) The method according to claim 95, wherein the uplink and downlink channels are part of a code division multiple access communication system.

111. (new) The method according to claim 95, wherein the at least one slot assigned for transmitting information of the first type is assigned based on a contention-free reservation mechanism.